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FAX COVER SHEET

To: CALFED PROGRAM MANAGER

Ft:

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Environmental Programs

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Re: CALFED

Total Number of Pages (Including Cover Sheet): 5

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Founded in 1977 by DAVID PACKARD September 7, 1999

The Program Manager
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
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On behalf of the Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on CALFED's 1999 Programmatic EIR/EIS.

By way of background, the Manufacturing Group is a public policy trade association representing 150 of Silicon Valley's largest high-tech and supporting industry employers on a variety of issues affecting the business climate and quality of life for those who live and work in Silicon Valley. These companies employ more than 250,000 workers, representing one in four private sector workforce in Silicon Valley. These companies are also part of the \$106 billion regional economy of San Jose. To our members, conservation has become a religion.

The Manufacturing Group has been working with the Santa Clara Valley Water District to review Programmatic EIR/EIS offered by CALFED and would like to commend you for your hard work in developing this package for discussion. As you may be aware, we also submitted joint letters with the Water District and other stakeholders which are generally supportive of CALFED. In that letter, we also listed critical needs and expectations from CALFED. These include water supply reliability improvements, drinking water quality improvements, and an affordable and equitable solutions.

A reliable, and consistently high quality water supply is essential for the future well being of Silicon Valley since it is critical to supporting our \$106 billion regional economy. Decision-making to this end should be consensus driven, include both the economy and the environment, look at new methods to finance water facilities, explore more market driven approaches, and be based upon long term comprehensive planning.

As members of the business community, we would like to point out some of the areas that need improvements in the Programmatic EIR/EIS document.

The mission of Calfed Bay-Delta program is to develop a long-term comprehensive plan that will restore ecological health and improve water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta. However, the package before us today focuses more on near-term implementation, with no clear indication on how to accomplish long-term goals water supply reliability

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and water quality improvements. We are further concerned about the lack of near-term actions that would provide needed improvements in water supply reliability or in drinking water quality,

Silicon Valley employers deserve safe, clean, and high quality water. Water supply agencies and utilities continue to implement advance treatment technologies to meet increasingly stringent regulatory standards. Similarly, many of the electronic and semiconductor companies have invested heavily to further treat their water for their high quality needs. The higher quality the water that arrives at the manufacturer's plant, the less costly it will be for the manufacturer to utilize that water for their high quality needs. Protecting and improving Bay-Delta watersheds will improve water quality for all industries and urban areas for years to come. We all work together to assure that, we urge you to ensure the PEIS/EIR contains:

- a clear schedule on establishing quantifiable benchmarks for the improvement of source water quality as it relates to chemical constituents
- a commitment to study the option of additional storage capacity for future growth while ensuring protection of the Bay-Delta estuaries and fisheries
- aggressive conservation and recycling by all businesses and residents in the State

We believe it is vital to our economy and our continued viability as manufacturers in Silicon Valley to support the Calfed Program in its efforts to tackle the tough water issues surrounding the Bay-Delta, Silicon Valley and the State. In order to continue to supporting CLAFED as promised, it is important assurances that our water supply reliability and quality will not be compromised.

Silicon Valley relies on imported water from the Bay-Delta for over half of its annual supply. Uncertainty of this supply could be detrimental to the economies of Silicon Valley. With an expected gain of 1.4 million new residents in the nine-county Bay Area region by the year 2020, long-term solutions must be made now to meet the future supply demands. The preferred Calfed alternative must be refocused to give employers confidence of knowing we will have reliable, consistent supply of high quality water, even in dry years.

Your time and consideration of our views is greatly appreciated. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff to ensure that Silicon Valley remains a healthy place to live and do business. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Elias

Director, Environmental Programs

(408)501-7852

rawing History

BY BETTY BARNACLE Mercury News Staff Writer

Charles Kamakea Jr. set out to paint a mural of a century of war. but first he had to work a television set and an electric box into his painting.

These modern objects at the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall in Santa Clara had to stay put, the VFW said. Now the electric box is disguised as jungle foliage in a riveting Vietnam scene, and dramatic colors draw attention ral. away from television set.

Kamakea, 64, a former Marine, was asked to paint an 8-by-30foot montage of America's wars since the VFW began in 1898. The mural will be dedicated at the post's public centennial party Sept. 25.

Huge American flags are like bookends at each side of the mural. In between, the embattled USS Maine sinks, starting the

Spanish-American War in 1899; a Coast Guard officer kneels beside a fallen comrade on a burning deck in World War I; a GI carries a wounded buddy to safety in Korea in the 1950s next to a Purple Heart and the Congressional Medal of Honor, tanks of all vintages trundle across the painted landscape and a World War II bomber soars through the

This isn't Kamakea's first mu-

"I did other ones for mess halls for the Marines, Navy and Army all over the place," he said between stints up and down a ladder. "I really put myself into them. I think I'm there when I paint a scene."

Kamakea hits the history books before he adds anything. said Tom Flowers, a member of Post 3982.

See MURAL, Page 2B



PHOTOGRAPHS BY GARY REYES -- MERCURY NEWS

Ex-Marine Charles Kamakea Jr., top, donated his time to paint the mural at the Santa Clara VFW hall. The work depicts U.S. soldiers during the past 100 years above.

Next week police will present the autopsy results and other investigative reports to the district attorney's office, which will determine if charges will be filed against a 28-year-old paroled sex offender with whom Bonilla spent her last evening alive. San Jose police spokesman Rubens Dalaison said Pri-

Using information supplied by the man, and under direction of homicide investigators, workers at Browning-

See BONILLA, Page 2B

Valley gets to speak on delta plan

BY FRANK SWEENEY Mercury News Staff Writer

Silicon Valley residents — as well as industries that have a huge stake in the outcome — will get a chance Tuesday to sound off on a controversial state-federal plan to restore the ecological health of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.

The delta, through which most of California's rivers run before flowing into San Francisco Bay, is the source of two-thirds of California's drinking water. In normal years, it provides half of what Santa Clara County consumes, a supply that is critical to Silicon Valley manufacturing processes.

"We need high-quality water, and we also need a reliable water supply," said Chris Elias, environmental programs director for the Sillcon Valley Manufacturing Group, which represents the biggest high-tech companies in the county. It is inte-See DELTA, Page 2B

S.J. hearing set on plan to fix ecology of delta

🖪 DELTA

from Page 1B

grai to maintaining a healthy economy and to protect the quality of life."

For high-tech industries, the water it mostly in it clean enough for manufacturing purposes. But the cleaner it is to start with, the less they have to treat it.

In addition to fixing the struggling bay and delta environment, the \$6.2 billion plan is supposed to guarantee a sufficient water supply to the state's burgeoning population. Ultimately, the cost could exceed \$10 billion over the next 30 years.

The hearing in San Jose is one of a series held around the state to get public comment on the plan, developed after more than four years of study. Several environmental groups, as well as business representatives, will be among those expected to testify.

No solution yet

Although it has been hailed by supporters as a solution to end decsites of California water wars, the reaction so far indicates the dispute has not been resolved.

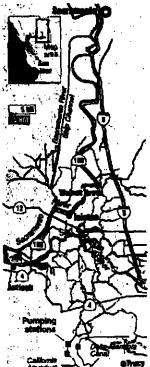
Urban water agencies say it won't provide enough high-quality water for their growing populations and the dustries. Central Valley farmers charge that it will push farmland out of production and farmers out of business. Environmentalists, while happy that the plan does not include building a peripheral canal around the delta, say it doesn't do enough to offset the decline of endangered salmon and other bal species.

The delta spreads out over 735,000 acres of aloughs, islands, marshus and reclaimed farmland at the confluence of the Surmmanto and San Josquin rivers. Huge diversions of water — drawn out through pumps near Tracy and moved south in equations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project — have reduced drinking water quality and put two fish species, the winter-run Chlmook salmon and delta smell, on the endangered list.

The delta studies are acheduled to be completed in June, with the projects to begin as financing is secured.

Construction of a 44-mile concrete canal around the eastern edge of the delta to make it ussier to stip higher delta to make it ussier to stip higher delta water south — to Santa Clara County as well as Southern California.





peripheral canal

Proposed by Gov. Jerry Brown in 1982, the Petripheral Canal was rejected by outers in a bitter north-south political water war. But smaller versions of such a canal, emphemistically called an "inolated conveyance facility," have been considered by water planners since.

The peripheral canal issue demonstrates how the water establishment won't let u had idea die," said lackle McCort of the Sierra Club. "They keep turning back to the idea that dams and canals will solve their problems."

The aniswer is more water conservation, McCort said, citing Santa Clara. County as an example. The county uses roughly what it consumed a decade ago, despite enormous population and industrial growth, she said.

However, the Santa Clark Valley Water District supports continuous We need high-quality water, and we also need a reliable water supply. It is integral to . . . a healthy economy.

- Chris Elica

to the state and federal water project pumps in the south delta.

Hold door open

Elias, of the manufacturing group, agreed that conservation should be a critical element of any plan, but added that a count around the debt should not be ruled out without further study. "We don't want to close that door," he said.

While the plan does not call for immediate construction of new dams or reservoirs, it would provide for studies at 12 sites around the state.

To increase water supply, the plan calls for dredging parts of the south delta to speed water flow, to encourage more water recycling and conservation, and to establish "environmental water accounts" to buy water from furnam and cities that would remain in the delta for fish and wild-life.

The plan would reduce pollution by clamping down on pesticide nuroff from farms and oil and other contaminant runoff from cides.

The CalFed task force, a cualition of 15 festeral and state agencies, was formed by the Wilson and Clinton administrations in 1994. The appearant forged a truce in hope of linding a common solution to the delta's problems after deciales of lawsuits by larmers, environmentalists and cities over who gets how much water.

IF YOU'RE INTENESTED

The CalFed public heaving will be Tuesday in the San Jose Unified School District board room, 855 Lenzen Ave., between Strackton Avenue and The Alemedia in San Jose It will Col

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